

Message Text

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14

ACTION ORM-02

INFO OCT-01 EA-07 IO-13 ISO-00 DHA-02 CIAE-00 INSE-00

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FM AMCONSUL HONG KONG

TO AMEMBASSY RANGOON IMMEDIATE

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1257

USMISSION GENEVA IMMEDIATE

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SREF

SUBJECT: VIETNAMESE REFUGEES ON BURMESE SHIP

REF: RANGOON 2472

1. HKG AUTHORITIES HAVE JUST TOLD US THAT THE OWNERS OF AVA IN BURMA HAVE AUTHORIZED CAPTAIN TO ENTER THE HARBOR, LOAD AND UNLOAD CARGO, AND THAT THE MASTER SHOULD ACCEPT RESPONSIBILITY FOR SECURITY OF THE SHIP, I.E., SEEING TO IT THAT ALL VIETNAMESE REMAIN ABOARD. HE IS ALSO TO GIVE ASSURANCES THAT HE WILL SAIL OUT WITH ALL 99 VIETNAMESE. SINCE THIS WAS TELEXED FROM RANGOON TO HONG KONG AGENTS CAPTAIN STILL NOT MOVING HIS SHIP, HOWEVER SHE IS EXPECTED IN HARBOR LATE THIS AFTERNOON OR EARLY TOMORROW MORNING AND SHOULD COMPLETE LOADING AND UNLOADING WITHIN 48 HOURS.

2. NEITHER WE NOR HKG BELIEVE THAT SHIP WILL SAIL TO HAIPHONG ALTHOUGH THAT IS A POSSIBILITY. BURMESE TALK OF GUAM REFTEL MAY BE WILL PUT THAT DESTINATION IN MASTER'S MIND. MORE PROBABLY, HE WILL CONTINUE HIS SCHEDULED VOYAGE TO JAPAN. IN ANY CASE, HKG WILL TRY TO FIND OUT HIS DESTINATION WELL BEFORE SHIP ACTUALLY LEAVES.

3. WE HAVE BEEN DISCUSSING THE ENTIRE PROBLEM OF INDO-
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CHINESE REFUGEES ARRIVING BY SEA WITH HK GOVERNMENT AND

I WILL HAVE FURTHER SUGGESTIONS AS RESULT OF THESE CON-
VERSATIONS TODAY. ALTHOUGH HKG WILL NOT GIVE PERMISSION
TO LAND REFUGEES AT THIS TIME, I HAVE IMPRESSION THAT THEIR
POSITION IS SOFTENING AND NEGOTIABLE.
CROSS

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